

ELDER ABUSE

It has been estimated that 5% of the nation's elderly or 1 out of 20 older Americans is a victim of elder abuse. These statistics may be startling to some people who don't realize that abuse of the elderly really exists. Unfortunately, elder abuse is happening right here in Grant County. There are various forms of abuse; the following terms may help you understand the different types.



Physical Abuse consists of "willful infliction on an elder person of physical pain or injury or unreasonable confinement."

Material Abuse (financial exploitation) denotes "the misuse of an elder person's property or financial resources."



Neglect consists of a "significant danger to an elder person's physical or mental health because the person who takes care of the elder person is unable or fails to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical, or dental care."

Self-Neglect means "a significant danger to an elder person's physical or mental health because the elder person is responsible for his or her own care but is unable to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical, or dental care."

The Department of Social Services is Grant County's designated lead elder abuse agency. Individuals who suspect elder abuse may be happening can make referrals to the Department of Social Services at (608) **723-2136**, or the **toll free Elder Abuse Hotline at 866-876-2670**. Caller confidentiality will be respected.

For general information, resource materials, or questions you may also contact the Center on Aging at 608-723-6113 or 1-800-514-0066.